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FOOD

# INFORMATION CALENDAR

OFFICE OF INFORMATION • UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

MIGRATORY FARM WORKERS. . . . Estimates just completed show that 239,041 people will travel long distances this year to help with the Nation's crops. Of this number, which does not include those transported within States for such work, about 48,012 are domestic workers and 191,029, foreigners. The 48,012 includes an estimated 20,000 migratory workers on the Atlantic Coast; 17,578, Texas Latin Americans; and 10,434 from the Southern States, principally Arkansas, Oklahoma, and Mississippi. Besides 100,000 POW's, the foreign labor includes 27,000 Jamaicans and Bahamans; 63,000 Mexicans, and 1,029 Newfoundlanders. The Army pays the transportation expenses of the POW's, and the workers or the growers, that of the Atlantic Coast migrants and the Texas Latin Americans. The remainder are transported under the Department's farm labor program.

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MEETING OF NATIONAL GARDEN COMMITTEE CALLED. . . . A meeting of the National Advisory Committee on Victory Gardens will be held in Washington August 23, at the suggestion of Hon. Prentice Cooper, chairman. Some questions suggested for discussion at the meeting by H. W. Hochbaum, chairman of the U. S. Government's Victory Garden Committee, are: (1) What is the need for a Victory Garden program in 1946?; (2) How may we increase Victory Gardens in urban areas in the South?; (3) What is the home canning situation, and how may home canning be increased?; and (4) How effective is the food pool program? Other points for discussion at the meeting will be welcomed by Mr. Hochbaum.

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RECORD LOW COTTON CROP. . . . Cotton production for 1945 is estimated at 10,134,000 (500-pound) bales by the Crop Reporting board. This would be 17 percent, or 2,096,000 bales, less than the 1944 crop and 2,159,000 less than the average for the 10-year period--1934-43. The number of acres computed for 1945 is 18,034,000. This is the smallest acreage of any of the past 60 years and 10 percent below the 1944 acreage. The forecast, just released, was based on August 1 information.

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AGRICULTURAL LEGISLATIVE DEVELOPMENTS. . . . July 31, the President approved bills to transfer to CCC the RFC subsidy program with respect to agricultural products, to provide for United States membership in the Food and Agriculture Organization, and to increase the borrowing power of the Export-Import Bank and continue it as a United States agency.

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SECRETARY ANDERSON is scheduled to speak August 15 at a dinner meeting of the New York Cotton Exchange. The occasion for the meeting (at the Pennsylvania Hotel) is the 75th birthday of the Exchange. Mr. Anderson will discuss the past, present, and future of King Cotton.

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USDA RELEASES OF SPECIAL IMPORTANCE. . . . Secretary Anderson's talk at Stillwater, Oklahoma, August 3, on NBC--1458; 1945 lamb crop report--1467; 1945 oats loan program--1471; USDA stresses canning fruit with little sweetening--1472; Assurance regarding subsidy on lambs, sheep--1475; Five new research sheets show diverse achievements--1477; Grower prices for Washington and Oregon pears for canning and freezing--1478; Canned fruit set-asides reduced--1482; Canned vegetable set-asides reduced--1483, Six 1,000 pound butterfat cows developed in USDA herd--1486; Changes in turkey improvement plan--1494; Restrictions lifted on bean purchases by CCC--1498; Sugar statistics for first six months of 1945--1502; School lunches back for 1945-46--1503; More pork products for civilians--1508; Commercial truck crops (acreage and indicated production) August 1, 1945--1514.

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OTHER RELEASES OF AGRICULTURAL SIGNIFICANCE. . . . Dealers must continue selling 12-gauge shotguns only to farmers and ranchers for use in predatory animal control--WPB-8736; Storage and handling rates on cotton increased--OPA-T-3514; Ceiling price for fresh peaches increased--OPA-5808; Slaughter percentage for cattle increased--OPA-5811; Surplus Property Board issues special orders allocating trucks to certain farm areas--OWI-4767; Wholesalers' mark-ups permitted on table grape sales through August 20--OPA-T-3527; More sugar should be available for home canning--OPA-T-3526 Meat industry requested to cooperate in furnishing meat to in-plant-feeding establishments--OPA-T-3533; Grower price announced for canned and frozen pears in Washington and Oregon--OWI-4781; Farmer-producers may sell thresher-run or rough-cleaned legume and grass seeds--OPA-T-3518; Production of farm tractor and implement tires in the last 18 months virtually wipes out a two-year war deficit--WPB-8800; Dehydrated garlic powder and compressed dehydrated fruits, vegetables and berries exempted from price control--OPA-5813.

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NEW RATION BOOK ON THE WAY. . . . War Ration Book Five, "smaller than a dollar bill," and containing just half as many stamps as the last book issued, will be distributed in December for use soon after January 1, 1946. Reason given for issuing the new book is that meats and fats, canned goods, and sugar and shoes will all be in tight supply for some months to come, making necessary the rationing of some items at least throughout most of next year. As the supply of red and blue stamps in War Ration Book Four, at their present rate of use, will be exhausted before the new book can be used, the "spare" and green stamps from Book Four will be used in the interim period.

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A REVISED POULTRY FACT SHEET has been prepared for distribution within a few days. The fact sheet emphasizes the need for getting the information it contains to farmers, consumers, processors, store owners--everybody in the states affected--to help assure the poultry required for servicemen.

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THE NEXT TIMELY FARM TOPICS PLATTER will be cut August 14. It will contain a discussion of the farm labor situation by M. L. Wilson, Director of Extension Service; on the other side Howard Zahniser of BPISAE will talk about surveying the nation's soils.

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